

# KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

AUGUST 28, 2023

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### SEPTEMBER 1 SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

Above, Kyle VanSparrentak (Street Stock point leader) waves. It's goodbye to the regular season after the final race this Friday! Be there to celebrate the winners in each race and the season champions in the Hutcherson Construction Late Models, Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock, O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock. It's a long time to the season opener in April 2024!!! Come on out for this Friday's races!

Hutcherson Construction is sponsoring the \$1,200 to win purse for the Late Models, Performance Plus Auto & Fabrication the \$1,000 to win Street Stock, Honor Credit Union for the \$500 to win Outlaw FWD and Howe Patio & Windows for the \$400 to win Zoo Stock.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

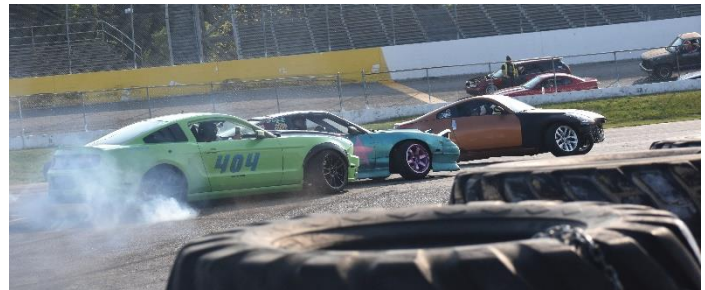
We thank our weekly class sponsors for their season-long support, the sponsors for this year's guest classes and the four "Big Money" purse sponsors. Also a big thank you to Lane Automotive for their general track sponsorship and to the sponsors who promoted a specific race. Please support the companies that support the racing community.



## SEPTEMBER 2 🏁 OPEN DRIFTING (LEASED EVENT)



It's another Open Drifting event brought to drivers and fans by AutoMODIFIED. An open drifting event, cars hit the course as singles,



doubles, triples and, occasionally, as quads. First time drifters plus the more experienced are always welcome.

It's only \$5 for adults to watch; 12 and under are free. Driver pit passes are \$80 (which includes one crew member). Non-driver pit passes run \$20. Ride-a-longs are available; helmets required. Ticket windows and the pits open at noon; drifting runs from 2:00 - 9:00 PM. Rain or shine! On August 26, the talent showed up and treated themselves and fans to some top notch drifting on two different courses.

## SEPTEMBER 16 🏁 THE LEGENDARY NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16	
Pits Open	1:00 PM
Participant Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	11:00 AM
Adult Grandstand	\$25
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:00 PM

It's the one. It's the original. It's the Legendary Night of Destruction and it's here. Saturday, September 16.

Tickets are only available at the ticket windows at the track. Ticket windows open on September 16 at 11:00. Blankets to save seats are allowed with proof of a paid ticket.

Participants! Look for registration forms and rules later this week.

See the next page for a list of events!

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## EVENTS!

**PIT PARTY (4:00 – 6:30 PM)**

**Stacker Cars  
Drifting  
Big Rigs  
Skid Plate Race  
Tough Trucks  
Trailer Races  
Bus Races**

**Power Wheels Derby  
Mini-Wedge Feature  
National Guard Events  
Obstacle Course  
Football Toss  
Basketball Toss**



## FIREWORKS

## SUPER SHOE REMINDERS

All information about Super Shoe is on [www.kalamazoospeedway.com](http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com). Look for the Super Shoe post.

Campers from 2022 have until September 6 to claim (and pay) for their 2023 campsites.

Upper or 3<sup>rd</sup> pit rentals will be taken until they're gone. \$100 per pit stall. There are plenty of pit stalls in the infield; these are available at no charge.



Modifieds and Crown Vics. Sixteen (16) cars need to be registered (with registration fee paid) to have your own classes. Call 269.355.4628 to register.

Questions? Email [barbara@kalamazoospeedway.com](mailto:barbara@kalamazoospeedway.com) or [gary@kalamazoospeedway.com](mailto:gary@kalamazoospeedway.com).

## AUGUST 25 🏁 RACE RECAP

We kind of liked the headliner qualifying at the start of the race program so we did it again with the 4J Trucking Modifieds. Leslie Stuller sang the National Anthem and we were off to the races.

Walt Obrinske Jr. clocked fast time for the 20 **4J Trucking Modifieds** with a time of 13.841 (97.536 MPH) and also had the fastest time in practice (13.868). Brad Blackburn Jr. (right) hit the wall hard during practice and was done for the night.

In the 50-lap feature, the #65 of Austin Maynard took the early lead. Jeff Ganus began his march through the field after a caution with 47 laps remaining. Ganus passed Maynard with 34 laps remaining and put up a substantial lead. A caution with 31 laps remaining equalized the field. Matt Maurer made the most of the restart and moved into the third position. A couple more cautions followed in quick succession before getting back to green. With 30 laps remaining Jeff Ganus had the lead followed by Austin Maynard, Matt Maurer and Jason Timmerman. Maurer moved into second with 27 laps left. Brian Bergakker came alive during the second half of the race. A caution with five laps remaining gave Matt Maurer the



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opening he was looking for and he took the lead on the restart, but it was Ganus's night and Maurer was back in the runner-up position with two laps remaining. At the checkered it was Jeff Ganus (previous page bottom right), Brian Bergakker, Matt Maurer, Matt Dimit and Jason Timmerman in the top five. Billy Shannon led off the second half of the order followed by Tom Rutherford, Bubba Brooks, Brian Nester and Cory Pressler.

In the **Engine Pro Vintage Modifieds**, Todd Cowan posted the fastest time in practice (15.026) and Dave Sensiba drove to the fastest time in qualifying (14.676, 91.987). Sensiba followed that up with a heat race win and made it two for two in winning his second feature of the season at Kalamazoo Speedway. Duane DeBonte took the early lead in the 20-lap feature. Todd Cowan moved into the lead with 14 laps remaining and veteran driver Dave Sensiba got around Cowan on the backstretch with 7 laps showing on the board. Cowan took the lead back briefly with 2 laps showing but Sensiba got back around him in the final half lap to take the checkered. Todd Cowan was the runner-up followed by Alan Marcott, Bob Martin, Don Smith, Duane DeBonte, Brian Beukema, Ken Quimby and one-lap down, Gene First.



In the **Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock**, Kyle VanSparrentak was the fastest in both practice (14.879) and qualifying (14.947, 90.319 MPH). Danny Oxford (blue car) won the first heat and Chris Munson (white car) took the second heat.

Gabe Sheppard took the early lead in the 30-lap feature. Caution flew three laps into the race when Blake Hybels' car put down a trail of fire on the front stretch. Once back to green, Lonnie Saumier took a turn leading the pack while Zach Westdorp, from the 4<sup>th</sup> starting position, moved into the lead with 23 laps remaining. Danny Oxford moved up to second. Ricky LaDuke had cracked the top five at the same time with Kyle Ribble and Kyle VanSparrentak not far behind. With 14 laps left, LaDuke swept past Westdorp and posted a substantial lead over the rest of the field. Point leader Kyle VanSparrentak moved around 4<sup>th</sup> place Danny Oxford with 8 laps remaining and then into the runner-up position with 4 laps left in the race. Kyle Ribble looked to take the third position from Westdorp, but Westdorp was having none of that. Ricky LaDuke added another Street Stock win to his resume, Kyle VanSparrentak was the runner-up, Zach Westdorp earned his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish followed by Kyle Ribble and Danny Oxford. James Roden led off the second half of the order followed by Lonnie Saumier, Alex Sexton, Jerry Ballard, and Chad VanSparrentak; all finishing on the lead lap. Kyle VanSparrentak has the point lead over defending champion Ricky LaDuke (-72) and Kyle Ribble (-104).



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Zach Westdorp (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Kyle VanSparrentak (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Ricky LaDuke (winner); Ricky LaDuke in Victory Lane.

The **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stocks**, saw three generations of Elseys qualifying at the top of the 33-car field. Scott Elsey was the fastest of the three (16.706, 80.809 MPH). Matthew Elsey Jr. beat out dad, Matt Elsey, for the next fastest. The heat races were won by CJ French (top), Michael Metheny (middle) and Kylee Letts (bottom right).

Brandy Emerson led a lively 15-lap 'B' feature before Keegan Letts moved ahead of him. It looked to be Letts' race when he broke out with 5 laps remaining (went faster than his adjusted qualifying time). He'd also had the misfortune of breaking out in his heat race. That put Jason Stewart in the lead and a checkered flag in his hand. An elated Eric Rabb was the runner-up. Joel Areaux was third; Kylee Letts and Robert Metheny Sr. completed the top five. In the second half of the order it was Don Teadt, Keegan Letts, David Caro, Brandy Emerson and Eric Leversee.

Below: Zoo 'B' Eric Rabb (runner-up), Joel Areaux (3<sup>rd</sup>) and winner Jason Stewart



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The 20-lap 'A' feature started out with a complete restart which set the stage for the rest of the race which was plagued with cautions and ended after 11 laps were complete when the race was called for time. (The race had exceeded 20 minutes [one minute per scheduled lap]; a caution would end the race). Michael Metheny had the early lead and kept it through multiple cautions. Top 10 Zoo Stock drivers had a rough night. Scott Elsey came into the night 14 points out of the lead and left -70 when he was unable to complete the feature, CJ French hit the wall, Desmond Watkins qualified well but didn't start the feature. When the field went back to green after caution, the field jockeyed for position. Caution flew again, thus ending the race. Rielly Meade was the race winner, followed by Matthew Elsey Jr., Austin McKee, Michael Metheny and Mason May in the top five. Brandon Goodrich was in the 6<sup>th</sup> position followed by Christina Rantz, Taylor Brown, Tyler Vanderhoff and Logan Meade, all on the lead lap. Matthew Elsey Jr. has the point lead.

Below: The Meades celebrate with Rielly Meade, 'A' feature winner. Right: Matthew Elsey Jr. (runner-up), Austin McKee (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Rielly Meade Zoo Stock 'A' feature winner.



Of note, George Galloway, 83, (right) drove the 62X for the night.



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